

Full day for prime minister on official visit to Turkiye

ANKARA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was accorded the honour of laying a wreath at Anitkabir here, the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkiye, yesterday.

He was also taken on a tour of the complex, including its museum, which chronicles the nation's history, sacrifices and founding vision.

"This visit offers a profound moment of reflection on the meaning of leadership, devotion to the nation, and the importance of national values in building a just and dignified future."

Anwar is in Turkiye on a three-day official visit at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as part of efforts to strengthen the longstanding bilateral ties between the two countries.

He also received a courtesy call from the Secretary of Turkish Defence Industries, Prof Dr Haluk Gorgun, on the second day of his official visit to the republic, Bernama reported.

The meeting provided a platform for constructive discussions to further strengthen defence cooperation between Malaysia and Turkiye, particularly in capability development, technology transfer, as well as training and human capital development, as key pillars of a sustainable national defence industry.

Their discussions also touched on existing collaborations between defence companies from both countries, with an emphasis on elevating these partnerships to a more strategic and comprehensive level based on complementarity and mutual benefit.

Present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, and Malaysian Ambassador to Turkiye Sazali Mustafa Kamal.

The Turkish delegation comprised Defence Minister Yasar Guler, Turkish Aerospace Industries

CEO cum Turkiye-Malaysia Business Council chairman Dr Mehmet Demiroglu, ASELSAN general manager Ahmet Akyol and Defence Technologies Engineering and Trade Inc general manager Ozgur Guleruz.

"I regard this visit as very important. The president joked with me that if I did not come, he would no longer want to be friends because he had already visited Malaysia, and I consider him a close friend," said Anwar in his speech at the Sentuhan Madani programme with the Malaysian diaspora here on Tuesday.

Erdogan had undertaken a two-day official visit to Malaysia in February last year.

Anwar said his first official visit to Turkiye comes after nearly three years in office as prime minister and fulfils Erdogan's repeated invitations, reminding him not to delay the visit.

"However, I told him that even without an official visit, I had previously come to Turkiye twice,

with the first visit taking place after the major earthquake that struck the country.

"After that, I stopped over here for several hours from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, before travelling to Cairo, Egypt to meet President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi as part of efforts to seek support and firm commitments among Islamic countries in defending the plight of the Palestinian people."

Earlier, Anwar arrived at the Esenboga International Airport here at 7.13pm local time (12.13am Malaysian time) to begin his official visit.

Malaysia's total trade with Turkiye from January to November 2025 reached RM21.2 billion, with the republic remaining an important economic partner.

In 2024, Turkiye was Malaysia's third-largest trading partner, largest export destination and fourth-largest source of imports among West Asian countries, with total trade valued at RM24.15 billion.